

REMARKS

I. Introduction

The Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claim 38. By this amendment, allowable claim 38 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim (claim 37). Claim 37 is canceled. Claims 22 and 24-36 are amended to ultimately depend from claim 38. Claim 23 is also canceled to avoid redundancy. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment places the application in condition for allowance. A notice indicating the same is respectfully solicited.

II. Preamble

Page 2 of the Final Office Action dated October 31, 2005, states that "[t]he preamble in claims 22 and 37 have [sic] been accorded no weight...". Applicant respectfully disagrees with the validity of this statement. Nevertheless, by this Amendment, claim 37 is canceled and claim 22 is amended to depend from claim 38. Claim 38 is rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 37. Claim 38 is, therefore, allowable. Claims 22 and 24-36 are amended to depend from claim 38 and are also allowable for at least the same reasons.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 22-25, 29-32, and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,090,607 to Ohuchi et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed. By this Amendment, claims 22, 24, 25, 29, 30, 32, and 35 are amended to depend from allowable claim 38. Claim 31 depends from claim 30. Claim 23 is canceled. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 22, 24, 25, 29-32, and 35, are allowable for at least the same reasons as indicated for claim 38. As a result, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

At page 3 of the Office Action, claims 22, 23, 25-32, and 35, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,497,882 to Kenyon. The rejection is respectfully

traversed. By this Amendment, claims 22, 25, 26, 28-30, 32, and 35 are amended to depend from allowable claim 38. Claim 27 depends from claim 26 and claim 31 depends from claim 30. Claim 23 is canceled. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 22, 25-32, and 35, are allowable for at least the same reasons as indicated for claim 38. As a result, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

At pages 3-4 of the Office Action, claims 22, 23, 26, 28, 29, 34, 35, and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,036,975 to Chow. The rejection is respectfully traversed. By this Amendment, claims 22, 26, 28, 29, 34, and 35 are amended to depend from allowable claim 38. Claims 23 and 37 are canceled. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 22, 26, 28, 29, 34, and 35 are allowable for at least the same reasons as indicated for claim 38. As a result, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

IV. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

At page 5 of the Office Action, claims 33 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ohuchi or Kenyon in view of Office Notice taken by the Examiner. The rejection is respectfully traversed. By this Amendment, claims 33 and 35 amended to depend from allowable claim 38. Claim 36 depends from claim 35. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 33 and 36 are allowable for at least the same reasons as indicated for claim 38. As a result, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

V. Conclusion

Claims 22, 24-36, and 38 are now pending and are believed to be allowable. Claim 38 is the only remaining independent claim. Applicant respectfully submits that the foregoing amendment places the application in condition for allowance. A notice indicating the same is respectfully requested. No fees are believed to be due for this amendment. Should any

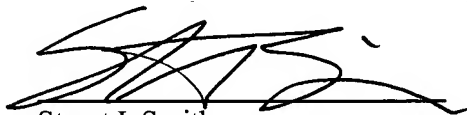
*Application No. 10/667,461
Amendment dated December 30, 2005
Reply to Final Office Action of October 31, 2005*

additional fees be required, please charge, or credit any overpayment to, Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by phone if it will expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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